

Notice to the Public and Documentation of Adoption

This notice identifies to the public the BLM's adoption of the USFS, FWS, and NPS CXs for the BLM's use. The notice identifies the types of actions to which the BLM would apply the CXs. The documentation of the adoption will also be available at <http://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/what-informs-our-plans/nepa> and at <https://www.doi.gov/oepr/nepa/categorical-exclusions>. The BLM will add the adopted CXs to the BLM's NEPA DM Chapter in 516 DM 11.

Authorities

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*).

Stephen G. Tryon,

Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[PO #4820000251; NVNV106696478]

Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting for the Sloan Utility and Transportation Corridor; Clark County, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of proposed withdrawal.

SUMMARY: At the request of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Secretary of the Interior proposes to withdraw approximately 1,043.57 acres of public lands located in Clark County, Nevada, from location and entry under the United States mining laws and from leasing under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, but not from the disposal of mineral materials under the mineral materials disposal laws, for 20 years, subject to valid existing rights. The purpose of the proposed withdrawal is to establish protection for a utility and transportation corridor to facilitate the orderly development of future infrastructure and public services while preventing conflicting land uses. Publication of this notice segregates these lands for up to 2 years from location and entry under the United States mining laws and from leasing under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, but not from the disposal of mineral materials under the mineral materials disposal laws, subject to valid existing rights. This notice initiates a

90-day public comment period and announces an opportunity to request a public meeting.

DATES: All comments and requests for a public meeting must be received by April 15, 2025.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be sent to the BLM, Las Vegas Field Office, Attn: Proposed Sloan Utility and Transportation Corridor Withdrawal, 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89130, or via email at blm_nv_lvfo_landtenureteam@blm.gov. The BLM will not consider comments submitted via telephone calls.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eric Benavides, Realty Specialist, BLM Las Vegas Field Office, at (702) 515-5144, email: ebenavides@blm.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or Tele Braille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the proposed withdrawal is to support the development of future infrastructure projects and public services by ensuring the land in the designated utility and transportation corridor remains available for these uses and by preventing activities or land uses that could interfere with or hinder such developments. The proposed withdrawal would allow for the disposal of mineral resources through lease, license, or permit if excess mineral materials are generated during development activities.

The BLM filed a petition/application requesting that the Secretary withdraw the following described public lands located in Clark County, Nevada, for a 20-year term:

Federal Lands

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 23 S., R. 60 E.,

Sec. 24, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 25, N $\frac{1}{2}$.

T. 23 S., R. 61 E.,

Sec. 19, lots 9 thru 13, and 15 thru 19;

Sec. 30, lots 6 thru 10, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, those portions lying northwesterly of the westerly right-of-way of U.S. Highway 15.

The area described contains 1,015 acres, more or less, according to the BLM National PLSS CadNSDI, and the official plats of the surveys of the said land, on file with the BLM.

Non-Federal Surface Federal Mineral

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 23 S., R. 61 E.,

Sec. 19, lots 14 and 20;

Sec. 30, lot 5, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

The area described contains 28.57 acres, according to the official plats of the surveys of the said land, on file with the BLM.

The total areas described, including both Federal and non-Federal surface/Federal mineral lands, aggregate approximately 1,043.57 acres, more or less.

The Secretary of the Interior approved the BLM's petition. Therefore, the petition/application constitutes a withdrawal proposal by the Secretary of the Interior (43 CFR 2310.1-3(e)).

The use of a right-of-way, interagency, or cooperative agreement would not provide adequate protection for the area.

No additional water rights would be needed to fulfill the purpose of this proposed withdrawal.

Neither a right-of-way nor a cooperative agreement would adequately provide for the proposed uses because this area is a designated transportation corridor specifically established for compatible rights-of-way and the purpose of the withdrawal is to protect this corridor from conflicting uses. Relocating the proposed withdrawal outside this corridor would fail to realize its intended purpose of consolidating infrastructure to minimize environmental impacts and supporting the orderly development of future infrastructure projects and public services.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Notice is hereby given that an opportunity for a public meeting is afforded in connection with the withdrawal proposal. All interested persons who desire a public meeting for the purpose of being heard on the proposed withdrawal must submit a written request to the BLM Nevada State Director at the BLM address listed above no later than April 15, 2025. If the authorized officer determines that a public meeting will be held, a notice of the time, date, and location will be published in the **Federal Register** and a local newspaper at least 30 days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

For a period until January 15, 2027, the public lands described earlier will be segregated from location and entry under the United States mining laws and from leasing under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, but not from the disposal of mineral materials under the mineral materials disposal laws, subject to valid existing rights, unless the application is denied or canceled, or the withdrawal is approved prior to that date. Licenses, permits, cooperative agreements, or discretionary land use authorizations of a temporary nature may be allowed on a case-by-case basis during the temporary segregation period if they would comply with the applicable BLM land use plans for the described public lands located within the boundary of the proposed withdrawal.

This application will be processed in accordance with the regulations set forth in 43 CFR part 2300.

(Authority: 43 U.S.C. 1714)

Kimberly Prill,

Acting State Director.

[FR Doc. 2025-00814 Filed 1-14-25; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[PO #4820000251]

BLM Director's Response to the Appeals by the Governors of California and Utah of the BLM State Director's Governor's Consistency Review Determination for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development Resource Management Plan Amendments, Also Known as the Updated Western Solar Plan

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of response.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is publishing this notice of the reasons for the BLM Principal Deputy Director's determination to reject the recommendations of the Governors of California and Utah regarding the Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development Resource Management Plan Amendments (RMPAs).

ADDRESSES: A copy of the Record of Decision (ROD) and RMPAs for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development are available on the BLM website at: https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/2022371/200538533/20125356/251025336/Solar%20PEIS%20ROD_Vol%201_Final%2012.19.2024.pdf.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Heather Bernier, Division Chief for Decision Support, Planning, and National Environmental Policy Act; telephone 303-239-3635; address P.O. Box 151029, Lakewood, CO 80215; email hbernier@blm.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting Ms. Bernier. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 30, 2024, the BLM released the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) and Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments (RMPAs) for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development (89 FR 70660). In accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 1610.3-2(e), the BLM submitted the Proposed RMPAs for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development to the Governors of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming for a 60-day review to identify any inconsistencies with State or local plans, policies, or programs.

The Governors of California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming submitted a response regarding the Proposed RMPAs for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development to the relevant BLM State Directors. After careful consideration of the concerns raised by the Governors, the relevant State Directors decided not to adopt the recommendations made by the Governors and sent a written response to each respective Governor.

The applicable regulations at 43 CFR 1610.3-2(e) provide these Governors with the opportunity to appeal the State Director's decision to not accept the recommendations made in the respective consistency review letters. The Governors of California and Utah appealed the respective State Director's decisions to the BLM Director. In reviewing these appeals, the regulations at 43 CFR 1610.3-2(e) state that "[t]he Director shall accept the [consistency] recommendations of the Governor(s) if he/she determines they provide for a reasonable balance between the national interest and the State's interest."

On December 19, 2024, the BLM Principal Deputy Director issued a response to each Governor detailing the reasons that the recommendations did not meet this standard. Each appeal

response letter provides the basis for the BLM's determination on the respective Governor's appeal (pursuant to 43 CFR 1610.3-2(e)). The appeal responses are being published verbatim.

California

On August 30, 2024, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments (RMPA) for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development. In accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 1610.3-2(e), the BLM submitted the Proposed RMPAs for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development to the Governors of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming for a 60-day review to identify any inconsistencies with State or local plans, policies, or programs.

A representative from the California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation submitted a response regarding the Proposed RMPAs for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development to the BLM California State Director. After careful consideration of the concerns you raised, the BLM California State Director Joseph Stout decided not to adopt the recommendations you made and sent you a written response detailing why.

The applicable regulations at 43 CFR 161-3-2(e) provide you with the opportunity to appeal the State Director's decision to not accept the recommendations you made in your consistency review letter. These regulations also guide my review of the appeal, in which I must consider whether you have raised actual inconsistencies with State or local plans, policies, and or programs. To the extent inconsistencies are raised, I then consider whether your recommendations address the inconsistencies and provide for a reasonable balance between the national interest and your State's interest. In reviewing your appeal, the regulations at 43 CFR 1610.3-2(e) state that "[t]he Director shall accept the [consistency] recommendations of the Governor(s) if he/she determines they provide for a reasonable balance between the national interest and the State's interest."

This letter addresses your appeal of the response provided by the BLM California State Director regarding your consistency review of the Proposed RMPAs for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development. The Governor's consistency review is an important part of the BLM land use planning process, and we appreciate the significant time